



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
Public Health**

**SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE PROGRAM**

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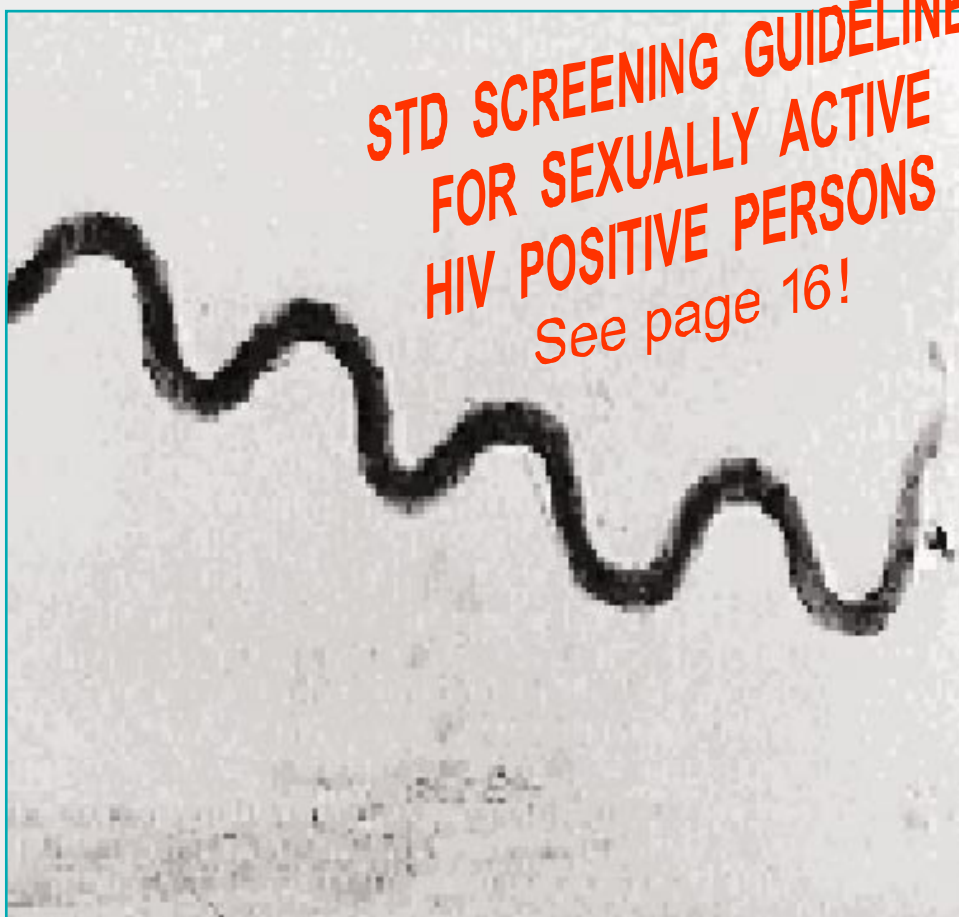
## **Early Syphilis Surveillance Summary**

Cases reported as of March 31, 2003

Issued April 15, 2003

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**STD SCREENING GUIDELINES  
FOR SEXUALLY ACTIVE  
HIV POSITIVE PERSONS  
See page 16!**



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April 15, 2003

Dear Colleague,

As of March 31, 2003, 73 early syphilis cases have been reported and confirmed by investigation. While the number of early syphilis cases in the first quarter of 2003 compared to 2002 (n=155) appears to have declined, it is too early to conclude that the epidemic is declining or that it has even reached a plateau. This decline may be an artifact of delays in reporting and investigations that are open and are being investigated. Approximately 600 reported incidents received in 2003 are pending investigation. We anticipate that we will be able to more accurately compare year-to-date trends for 2003 and 2002 by sometime in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of this year.

The outbreak of syphilis continues to primarily affect men who report having sex with other men (MSM) and is concentrated in Service Planning Area 4 (Metro) and the Hollywood-Wilshire Health District.

Again, due to the high risk of HIV transmission when co-infected with other STDs, we are providing specific STD screening guidelines for *sexually active HIV positive* patients in Appendix D on page 16 of this report. We urge medical providers to review these recommended guidelines and implement them for all sexually active HIV infected patients.

Finally, we wish to express our gratitude to those healthcare providers and community-based organizations who contribute to the accurate and timely reporting of syphilis cases.

Sincerely,

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If you would like to receive surveillance reports and other information from the STD Program, please call (213) 744-3070 and provide the attendant with your e-mail address or register for **STDInfo** online at [\*\*http://ladhs.org/listserv\*\*](http://ladhs.org/listserv).

#### **SUGGESTED CITATION**

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FRONT COVER: *Treponema pallidum* (Syphilis spirochete)

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Table 1. Early Syphilis - All Cases	2003				2002 (YTD)				2002 (Provisional)				2001			
	P&S	Early Latent	Total ES		P&S	Early Latent	Total ES		P&S	Early Latent	Total ES		P&S	Early Latent	Total ES	
	N	N	N	%	N	N	N	%	N	N	N	%	N	N	N	%
<b>Morbidity</b>																
Total	38	35	73	(100.0)	72	83	155	(100.0)	362	341	703	(100.0)	199	223	422	(100.0)
<b>Gender</b>																
Male	35	29	64	(87.6)	67	70	137	(88.3)	343	298	641	(91.1)	185	165	350	(82.9)
Female	3	6	9	(12.3)	5	13	18	(11.6)	19	43	62	(8.8)	12	57	69	(16.3)
Transgender: M to F	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	2	1	3	(0.7)
<b>Sexual Orientation <sup>1</sup></b>																
MSM	13	15	28	(38.3)	44	45	89	(57.4)	257	206	463	(65.8)	125	84	209	(49.5)
MSM/W	.	2	2	(2.7)	4	3	7	(4.5)	26	12	38	(5.4)	10	5	15	(3.5)
MSW	5	4	9	(12.3)	11	9	20	(12.9)	29	42	71	(10.0)	30	43	73	(17.2)
WSM	2	4	6	(8.2)	4	9	13	(8.3)	17	34	51	(7.2)	8	47	55	(13.0)
WSW	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	2	2	(0.4)
WSW/M	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	1	1	(0.2)
TG/STG	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	2	1	3	(0.7)
Refused	.	.	.	(0.0)	3	1	4	(2.5)	2	1	3	(0.4)	4	6	10	(2.3)
Unknown	18	10	28	(38.3)	6	16	22	(14.1)	31	46	77	(10.9)	20	34	54	(12.7)
<b>HIV Positive <sup>2</sup></b>																
Yes	8	8	16	(21.9)	27	33	60	(38.7)	181	147	328	(46.6)	71	64	135	(31.9)
No	12	12	24	(32.8)	24	22	46	(29.6)	123	102	225	(32.0)	63	70	133	(31.5)
Unknown	18	15	33	(45.2)	21	28	49	(31.6)	58	92	150	(21.3)	65	89	154	(36.4)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>																
White	16	11	27	(36.9)	30	23	53	(34.1)	168	106	274	(38.9)	69	42	111	(26.3)
Afr.-Amer.	4	8	12	(16.4)	10	10	20	(12.9)	56	49	105	(14.9)	41	31	72	(17.0)
Latina/o	14	12	26	(35.6)	27	44	71	(45.8)	115	161	276	(39.2)	78	135	213	(50.4)
Asian/Pac. Is.	1	2	3	(4.1)	3	4	7	(4.5)	12	11	23	(3.2)	7	5	12	(2.8)
Am.Ind/Alas.Nat.	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	2	3	(0.4)	.	1	1	(0.2)
Other/Mixed	1	.	1	(1.3)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	1	1	(0.1)	1	.	1	(0.2)
Unknown	2	2	4	(5.4)	2	2	4	(2.5)	10	11	21	(2.9)	3	9	12	(2.8)
<b>Age Group</b>																
<15	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	.	1	(0.1)	.	3	3	(0.7)
15-19	.	1	1	(1.3)	1	1	2	(1.2)	6	12	18	(2.5)	7	9	16	(3.7)
20-24	4	10	14	(19.1)	5	16	21	(13.5)	28	43	71	(10.0)	19	18	37	(8.7)
25-29	6	5	11	(15.0)	16	9	25	(16.1)	41	41	82	(11.6)	29	32	61	(14.4)
30-34	7	3	10	(13.6)	10	12	22	(14.1)	71	67	138	(19.6)	43	53	96	(22.7)
35-39	4	6	10	(13.6)	17	19	36	(23.2)	89	68	157	(22.3)	48	54	102	(24.1)
40-44	6	5	11	(15.0)	11	10	21	(13.5)	63	59	122	(17.3)	27	25	52	(12.3)
45-49	5	4	9	(12.3)	6	10	16	(10.3)	35	24	59	(8.3)	17	13	30	(7.1)
50-54	3	.	3	(4.1)	5	3	8	(5.1)	19	17	36	(5.1)	6	6	12	(2.8)
55-59	1	.	1	(1.3)	1	2	3	(1.9)	5	7	12	(1.7)	1	6	7	(1.6)
60 +	2	1	3	(4.1)	.	1	1	(0.6)	4	3	7	(0.9)	2	4	6	(1.4)

<sup>1</sup> Note: MSM refers to men who have sex with men; MSM/W is men who have sex with men and women; MSW is men who have sex with women; WSM refers to women who have sex with men; WSW is women who have sex with women; WSW/M is women who have sex with women and men. TG/STG refers to male-to-female (M to F) transgenders or to men or women who have sex with M to F transgenders.

Table 2. Early Syphilis - SPA and Health District of Residence		2003				2002 (Provisional)				2001			
		P&S	Early Latent	Total ES		P&S	Early Latent	Total ES		P&S	Early Latent	Total ES	
		N	N	N	%	N	N	N	%	N	N	N	%
SPA	District												
SPA 1 - ANTELOPE VALLEY	Other/Unknown	.	.	.	.	3	4	7	(0.9)	1	.	1	(0.2)
	SPA Total	.	.	.	.	3	4	7	(0.9)	1	.	1	(0.2)
SPA 2 - SAN FERNANDO VALLEY	District												
	East Valley	2	2	4	(5.4)	15	17	32	(4.5)	11	7	18	(4.2)
	Glendale	.	.	.	.	8	7	15	(2.1)	3	5	8	(1.8)
	San Fernando	2	1	3	(4.1)	4	11	15	(2.1)	2	4	6	(1.4)
	West Valley	1	1	2	(2.7)	13	14	27	(3.8)	9	7	16	(3.7)
	SPA Total	5	4	9	(12.3)	40	49	89	(12.6)	25	23	48	(11.3)
SPA 3 - SAN GABRIEL	District												
	Alhambra	.	.	.	.	3	2	5	(0.7)	1	2	3	(0.7)
	El Monte	.	1	1	(1.3)	3	5	8	(1.1)	4	9	13	(3.0)
	Foothill	.	.	.	.	3	.	3	(0.4)	2	1	3	(0.7)
	Pomona	.	1	1	(1.3)	5	6	11	(1.5)	5	10	15	(3.5)
	SPA Total	.	2	2	(2.7)	14	13	27	(3.8)	12	22	34	(8.0)
SPA 4 - METRO	District												
	Central	11	3	14	(19.1)	43	60	103	(14.6)	24	29	53	(12.5)
	Northeast	2	2	4	(5.4)	5	14	19	(2.7)	13	11	24	(5.6)
	Hollywood-Wilshire	13	13	26	(35.6)	155	102	257	(36.5)	50	45	95	(22.5)
	SPA Total	26	18	44	(60.2)	203	176	379	(53.9)	87	85	172	(40.7)
SPA 5 - WEST	District												
	West	2	1	3	(4.1)	28	12	40	(5.6)	12	6	18	(4.2)
	SPA Total	2	1	3	(4.1)	28	12	40	(5.6)	12	6	18	(4.2)
SPA 6 - SOUTH	District												
	Compton	1	2	3	(4.1)	5	8	13	(1.8)	5	10	15	(3.5)
	South	.	.	.	.	5	7	12	(1.7)	1	3	4	(0.9)
	Southeast	.	1	1	(1.3)	5	5	10	(1.4)	7	5	12	(2.8)
	Southwest	2	3	5	(6.8)	11	16	27	(3.8)	11	13	24	(5.6)
	SPA Total	3	6	9	(12.3)	26	36	62	(8.8)	24	31	55	(13.0)
SPA 7 - EAST	District												
	East Los Angeles	2	.	2	(2.7)	4	1	5	(0.7)	4	6	10	(2.3)
	Whittier	.	.	.	.	2	10	12	(1.7)	5	2	7	(1.6)
	Bellflower	.	.	.	.	5	3	8	(1.1)	3	8	11	(2.6)
	San Antonio	.	.	.	.	9	6	15	(2.1)	3	11	14	(3.3)
SPA 8 - SOUTH BAY	District												
	Harbor	.	.	.	.	3	7	10	(1.4)	1	1	2	(0.4)
	Inglewood	.	2	2	(2.7)	11	13	24	(3.4)	7	7	14	(3.3)
	Torrance	.	1	1	(1.3)	8	3	11	(1.5)	4	3	7	(1.6)
	SPA Total	.	3	3	(4.1)	22	23	45	(6.4)	12	11	23	(5.4)
UNKNOWN SPA	District												
	Long Beach	.	.	.	.	2	4	6	(0.8)	4	2	6	(1.4)
	Other/Unknown	.	1	1	(1.3)	4	4	8	(1.1)	7	16	23	(5.4)
	SPA Total	.	1	1	(1.3)	6	8	14	(1.9)	11	18	29	(6.8)

Table 3. MSM <sup>1</sup> General Demographics	2003				2002 (YTD)				2002 (Provisional)				2001			
	P&S	Early Latent	Total ES		P&S	Early Latent	Total ES		P&S	Early Latent	Total ES		P&S	Early Latent	Total ES	
	N	N	N	%	N	N	N	%	N	N	N	%	N	N	N	%
<b>Morbidity</b>																
Total	13	17	30	(100.0)	48	48	96	(100.0)	283	218	501	(100.0)	137	90	227	(100.0)
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>																
MSM	13	15	28	(93.3)	44	45	89	(92.7)	257	206	463	(92.4)	125	84	209	(92.0)
MSM/W	.	2	2	(6.6)	4	3	7	(7.2)	26	12	38	(7.5)	10	5	15	(6.6)
TG/STG	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	2	1	3	(1.3)
<b>HIV Positive<sup>2</sup></b>																
Yes	8	7	15	(50.0)	25	30	55	(57.2)	166	133	299	(59.6)	70	53	123	(54.1)
No	5	7	12	(40.0)	13	9	22	(22.9)	87	52	139	(27.7)	39	17	56	(24.6)
Unknown	.	3	3	(10.0)	10	9	19	(19.7)	30	33	63	(12.5)	28	20	48	(21.1)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>																
White	7	10	17	(56.6)	26	18	44	(45.8)	145	92	237	(47.3)	59	25	84	(37.0)
Afr.-Amer.	1	3	4	(13.3)	3	4	7	(7.2)	33	18	51	(10.1)	20	9	29	(12.7)
Latina/o	3	3	6	(20.0)	16	24	40	(41.6)	88	94	182	(36.3)	52	47	99	(43.6)
Asian/Pac. Is.	1	1	2	(6.6)	1	2	3	(3.1)	9	7	16	(3.1)	5	4	9	(3.9)
Am.Ind/Alas.Nat.	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	1	2	(0.3)	.	1	1	(0.4)
Other/Mixed	1	.	1	(3.3)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	.	1	(0.4)
Unknown	.	.	.	(0.0)	2	.	2	(2.0)	7	6	13	(2.5)	.	4	4	(1.7)
<b>Age Group</b>																
<15	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	.	1	(0.1)	.	.	.	(0.0)
15-19	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	3	5	8	(1.5)	4	1	5	(2.2)
20-24	2	2	4	(13.3)	2	8	10	(10.4)	22	19	41	(8.1)	13	5	18	(7.9)
25-29	3	2	5	(16.6)	14	4	18	(18.7)	35	22	57	(11.3)	21	14	35	(15.4)
30-34	2	2	4	(13.3)	8	10	18	(18.7)	54	48	102	(20.3)	26	22	48	(21.1)
35-39	1	5	6	(20.0)	9	10	19	(19.7)	72	48	120	(23.9)	38	23	61	(26.8)
40-44	3	3	6	(20.0)	9	7	16	(16.6)	53	44	97	(19.3)	20	15	35	(15.4)
45-49	2	3	5	(16.6)	4	5	9	(9.3)	26	15	41	(8.1)	9	4	13	(5.7)
50-54	.	.	.	(0.0)	2	3	5	(5.2)	11	12	23	(4.5)	5	2	7	(3.0)
55-59	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	1	1	(1.0)	4	4	8	(1.5)	1	3	4	(1.7)
60 +	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	2	1	3	(0.5)	.	1	1	(0.4)

<sup>1</sup> MSM includes gay and bisexual men, M to F transgenders, and men who have sex with M to F transgenders

Table 4. General Demographics - Female	2003				2002 (YTD)				2002 (Provisional)				2001			
	P&S	Early Latent	Total ES		P&S	Early Latent	Total ES		P&S	Early Latent	Total ES		P&S	Early Latent	Total ES	
	N	N	N	%	N	N	N	%	N	N	N	%	N	N	N	%
<b>Morbidity</b>																
Total	3	6	9	(100.0)	5	13	18	(100.0)	19	43	62	(100.0)	12	57	69	(100.0)
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>																
WSM	2	4	6	(66.6)	4	9	13	(72.2)	17	34	51	(82.2)	8	47	55	(79.7)
WSW	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	2	2	(2.8)
WSW/M	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	1	1	(1.4)
Unknown	1	2	3	(33.3)	1	4	5	(27.7)	2	9	11	(17.7)	4	7	11	(15.9)
<b>HIV Positive<sup>1</sup></b>																
Yes	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	2	2	(3.2)	.	2	2	(2.8)
No	2	1	3	(33.3)	3	6	9	(50.0)	15	23	38	(61.2)	4	26	30	(43.4)
Unknown	1	5	6	(66.6)	2	7	9	(50.0)	4	18	22	(35.4)	8	29	37	(53.6)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>																
White	.	1	1	(11.1)	.	2	2	(11.1)	1	3	4	(6.4)	3	4	7	(10.1)
Afr.-Amer.	.	1	1	(11.1)	2	2	4	(22.2)	11	11	22	(35.4)	4	10	14	(20.2)
Latina/o	3	2	5	(55.5)	3	8	11	(61.1)	7	26	33	(53.2)	4	42	46	(66.6)
Asian/Pac. Is.	.	1	1	(11.1)	.	1	1	(5.5)	.	2	2	(3.2)	.	.	.	(0.0)
Am.Ind/Alas.Nat.	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	1	1	(1.6)	.	.	.	(0.0)
Unknown	.	1	1	(11.1)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	1	2	(2.8)
<b>Age Group</b>																
<15	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	3	3	(4.3)
15-19	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	1	1	(5.5)	1	3	4	(6.4)	1	7	8	(11.5)
20-24	.	5	5	(55.5)	1	5	6	(33.3)	2	14	16	(25.8)	1	9	10	(14.4)
25-29	1	1	2	(22.2)	.	2	2	(11.1)	1	5	6	(9.6)	3	6	9	(13.0)
30-34	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	.	1	(5.5)	4	5	9	(14.5)	1	12	13	(18.8)
35-39	.	.	.	(0.0)	2	2	4	(22.2)	5	6	11	(17.7)	.	11	11	(15.9)
40-44	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	5	6	(9.6)	2	3	5	(7.2)
45-49	1	.	1	(11.1)	1	2	3	(16.6)	3	2	5	(8.0)	3	4	7	(10.1)
50-54	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	2	1	3	(4.8)	.	1	1	(1.4)
55-59	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	1	1	(1.6)	.	.	.	(0.0)
60 +	1	.	1	(11.1)	.	1	1	(5.5)	.	1	1	(1.6)	1	1	2	(2.8)
<b>Prenatal/Pregnant</b>																
YES	.	2	2	(22.2)	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	4	5	(8.0)	1	4	5	(7.2)
NO	2	.	2	(22.2)	3	5	8	(44.4)	15	18	33	(53.2)	.	11	11	(15.9)
UNKNOWN	1	4	5	(55.5)	2	8	10	(55.5)	3	21	24	(38.7)	11	42	53	(76.8)

<sup>1</sup> MSM includes gay and bisexual men, M to F transgenders, and men who have sex with M to F transgenders



Table 5. General Demographics - Heterosexual Men <sup>1</sup>	2003				2002 (YTD)				2002 (Provisional)				2001			
	P&S		Early Latent		Total ES		P&S		Early Latent		Total ES		P&S		Early Latent	
	N		N		N		N		N		N		N		N	
<b>Morbidity</b>																
Total	5	4	9	(100.0)	11	9	20	(100.0)	29	42	71	(100.0)	30	43	73	(100.0)
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>																
MSW	5	4	9	(100.0)	11	9	20	(100.0)	29	42	71	(100.0)	30	43	73	(100.0)
<b>HIV Positive<sup>12</sup></b>																
Yes	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	.	1	(5.0)	6	1	7	(9.8)	.	3	3	(4.1)
No	5	4	9	(100.0)	6	5	11	(55.0)	18	25	43	(60.5)	19	27	46	(63.0)
Unknown	.	.	.	(0.0)	4	4	8	(40.0)	5	16	21	(29.5)	11	13	24	(32.8)
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>																
White	2	.	2	(22.2)	.	.	.	(0.0)	7	3	10	(14.0)	4	4	8	(10.9)
Afr.-Amer.	1	2	3	(33.3)	4	3	7	(35.0)	10	13	23	(32.3)	7	6	13	(17.8)
Latina/o	2	2	4	(44.4)	6	5	11	(55.0)	9	24	33	(46.4)	17	32	49	(67.1)
Asian/Pac. Is.	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	1	2	(10.0)	2	2	4	(5.6)	1	1	2	(2.7)
Unknown	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	.	1	(1.4)	1	.	1	(1.3)
<b>Age Group</b>																
15-19	.	1	1	(11.1)	1	.	1	(5.0)	2	4	6	(8.4)	2	1	3	(4.1)
20-24	1	1	2	(22.2)	2	1	3	(15.0)	4	7	11	(15.4)	4	3	7	(9.5)
25-29	1	2	3	(33.3)	2	1	3	(15.0)	4	8	12	(16.9)	2	9	11	(15.0)
30-34	2	.	2	(22.2)	.	1	1	(5.0)	3	4	7	(9.8)	8	9	17	(23.2)
35-39	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	3	4	(20.0)	6	7	13	(18.3)	6	8	14	(19.1)
40-44	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	1	2	(10.0)	3	5	8	(11.2)	2	5	7	(9.5)
45-49	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	1	1	(5.0)	1	2	3	(4.2)	5	4	9	(12.3)
50-54	1	.	1	(11.1)	3	.	3	(15.0)	4	2	6	(8.4)	1	2	3	(4.1)
55-59	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	1	2	(10.0)	1	2	3	(4.2)	.	1	1	(1.3)
60 +	.	.	.	(0.0)	.	.	.	(0.0)	1	1	2	(2.8)	.	1	1	(1.3)

<sup>1</sup> Heterosexual men are male cases who did not report having male or M to F transgender sex partners.

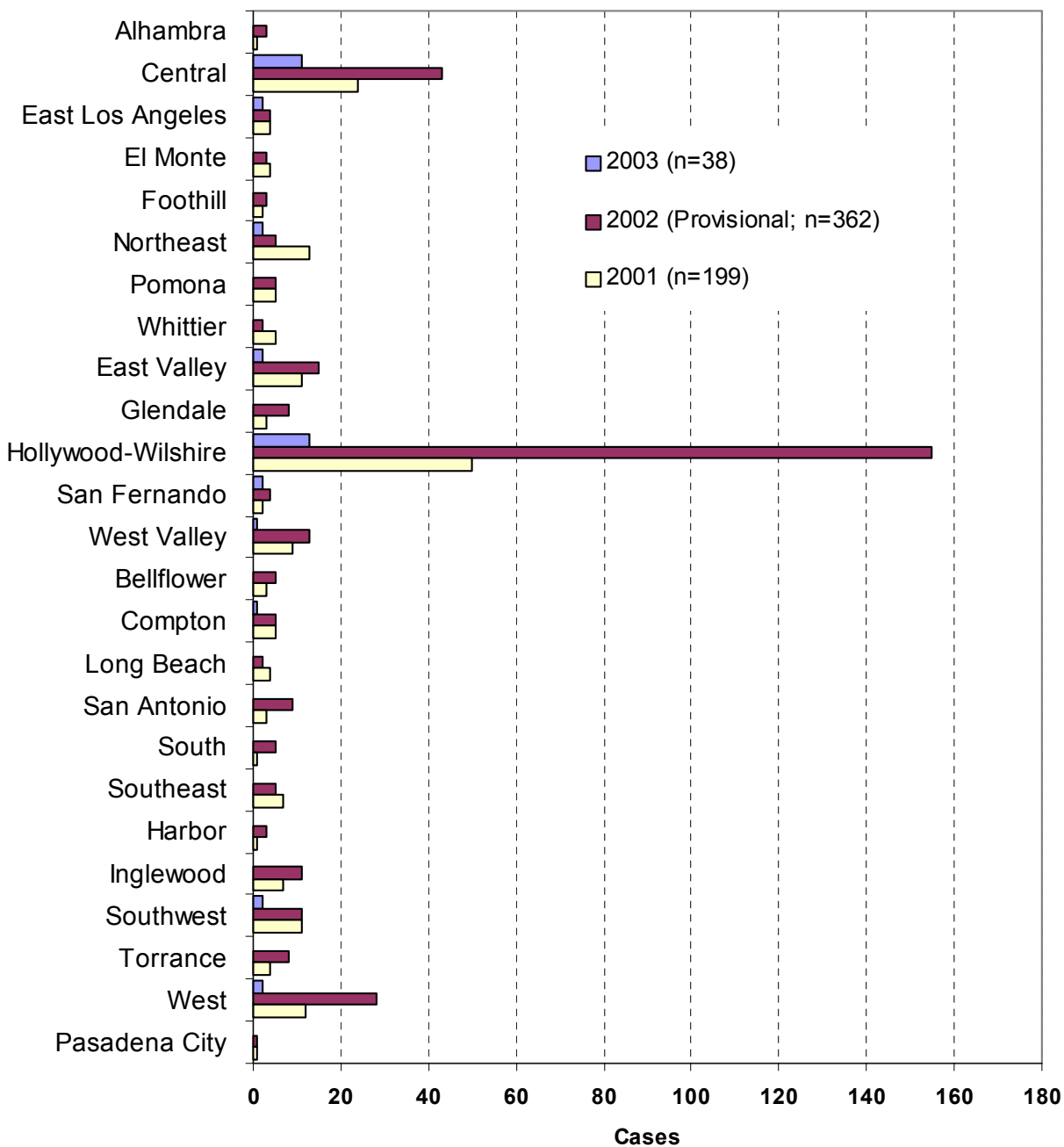
Table 6. Behavioral Risk Factors by Sexual Orientation <sup>1</sup>	2003						2002 (Provisional)					
	MSM & MSM/W		MSW		All Female		MSM & MSM/W		MSW		All Female	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Anal Insertive</b>												
Yes	10	(55.5)	2	(28.5)	.	(0.0)	336	(69.4)	5	(7.3)	.	(0.0)
No	5	(27.7)	3	(42.8)	2	(50.0)	71	(14.6)	42	(61.7)	37	(77.0)
Unknown	3	(16.6)	2	(28.5)	2	(50.0)	77	(15.9)	21	(30.8)	11	(22.9)
<b>Anal Receptive</b>												
Yes	11	(61.1)	.	(0.0)	.	(0.0)	326	(67.3)	.	(0.0)	7	(14.5)
No	5	(27.7)	5	(71.4)	2	(50.0)	77	(15.9)	45	(66.1)	30	(62.5)
Unknown	2	(11.1)	2	(28.5)	2	(50.0)	81	(16.7)	23	(33.8)	11	(22.9)
<b>Oral Sex</b>												
Yes	17	(94.4)	5	(71.4)	1	(25.0)	395	(81.6)	33	(48.5)	20	(41.6)
No	.	(0.0)	.	(0.0)	1	(25.0)	18	(3.7)	16	(23.5)	17	(35.4)
Unknown	1	(5.5)	2	(28.5)	2	(50.0)	71	(14.6)	19	(27.9)	11	(22.9)
<b>Vaginal Sex</b>												
Yes	2	(11.1)	7	(100.0)	4	(100.0)	34	(7.0)	59	(86.7)	47	(97.9)
No	14	(77.7)	.	(0.0)	.	(0.0)	390	(80.5)	3	(4.4)	.	(0.0)
Unknown	2	(11.1)	.	(0.0)	.	(0.0)	60	(12.3)	6	(8.8)	1	(2.0)
<b>Anonymous Partners</b>												
Yes	12	(66.6)	3	(42.8)	.	(0.0)	321	(66.3)	23	(33.8)	2	(4.1)
No	4	(22.2)	3	(42.8)	.	(0.0)	86	(17.7)	29	(42.6)	36	(75.0)
Unknown	2	(11.1)	1	(14.2)	4	(100.0)	77	(15.9)	16	(23.5)	10	(20.8)
<b>Condom Used<sup>2</sup></b>												
Yes	3	(16.6)	1	(14.2)	.	(0.0)	108	(22.3)	15	(22.0)	6	(12.5)
No	13	(72.2)	5	(71.4)	2	(50.0)	253	(52.2)	33	(48.5)	35	(72.9)
Unknown	2	(11.1)	1	(14.2)	2	(50.0)	123	(25.4)	20	(29.4)	7	(14.5)
<b>Incarcerated Past Year</b>												
Yes	2	(11.1)	3	(42.8)	.	(0.0)	14	(2.8)	6	(8.8)	2	(4.1)
No	11	(61.1)	2	(28.5)	1	(25.0)	333	(68.8)	33	(48.5)	23	(47.9)
Unknown	5	(27.7)	2	(28.5)	3	(75.0)	137	(28.3)	29	(42.6)	23	(47.9)
<b>IV Drug User</b>												
Yes	1	(5.5)	.	(0.0)	.	(0.0)	14	(2.8)	.	(0.0)	1	(2.0)
No	15	(83.3)	6	(85.7)	2	(50.0)	391	(80.7)	57	(83.8)	39	(81.2)
Unknown	2	(11.1)	1	(14.2)	2	(50.0)	79	(16.3)	11	(16.1)	8	(16.6)
<b>Non-IV Drug User</b>												
Yes	6	(33.3)	2	(28.5)	.	(0.0)	102	(21.0)	12	(17.6)	5	(10.4)
No	8	(44.4)	5	(71.4)	3	(75.0)	297	(61.3)	42	(61.7)	34	(70.8)
Unknown	4	(22.2)	.	(0.0)	1	(25.0)	85	(17.5)	14	(20.5)	9	(18.7)

<sup>1</sup> Behavioral risk information is available starting in 2001 and includes closed cases only. Does not include cases with no information on sexual partners<sup>2</sup> Condom was used at last intercourse

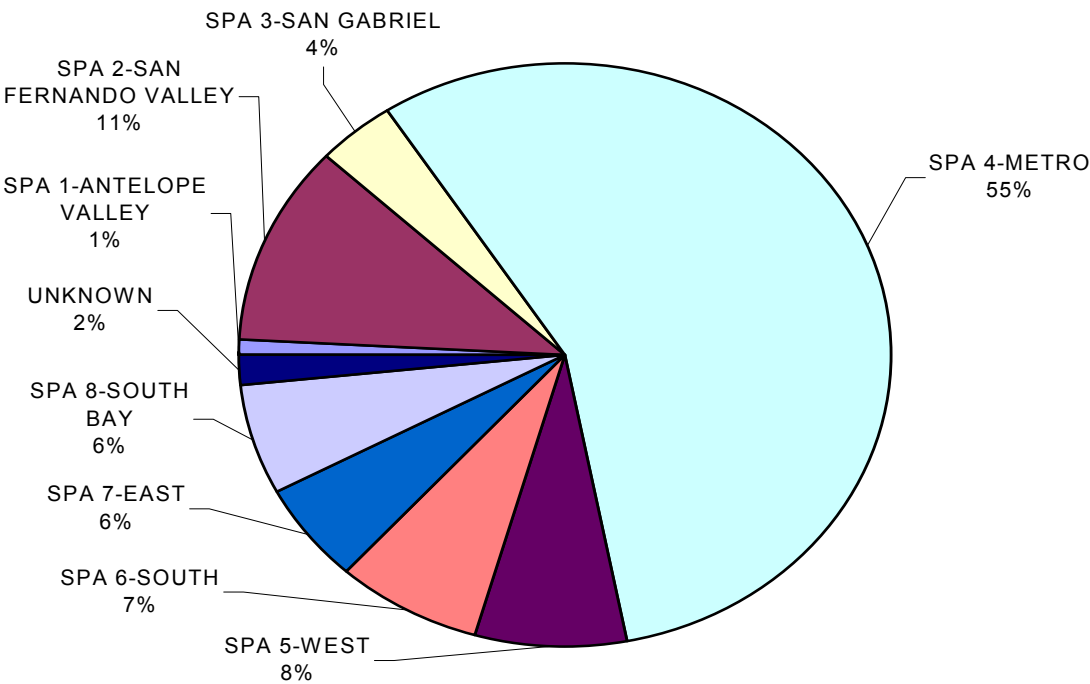
Table 7. Venue Risk by Sexual Orientation <sup>1</sup>	2003						2002 (Provisional)					
	MSM & MSM/W		MSW		All Female		MSM & MSM/W		MSW		All Female	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Bars and Clubs</b>												
Yes	8	(44.4)	1	(14.2)	.	(0.0)	174	(35.9)	11	(16.1)	3	(6.2)
No	8	(44.4)	3	(42.8)	1	(25.0)	206	(42.5)	39	(57.3)	36	(75.0)
Unknown	2	(11.1)	3	(42.8)	3	(75.0)	104	(21.4)	18	(26.4)	9	(18.7)
<b>Bathhouses/ Sex Clubs</b>												
Yes	3	(16.6)	.	(0.0)	.	(0.0)	110	(22.7)	.	(0.0)	.	(0.0)
No	11	(61.1)	3	(42.8)	1	(25.0)	262	(54.1)	45	(66.1)	37	(77.0)
Unknown	4	(22.2)	4	(57.1)	3	(75.0)	112	(23.1)	23	(33.8)	11	(22.9)
<b>Motels</b>												
Yes	.	(0.0)	.	(0.0)	.	(0.0)	9	(1.8)	2	(2.9)	2	(4.1)
No	13	(72.2)	3	(42.8)	1	(25.0)	348	(71.9)	42	(61.7)	35	(72.9)
Unknown	5	(27.7)	4	(57.1)	3	(75.0)	127	(26.2)	24	(35.2)	11	(22.9)
<b>Streets</b>												
Yes	1	(5.5)	1	(14.2)	.	(0.0)	26	(5.3)	13	(19.1)	3	(6.2)
No	12	(66.6)	2	(28.5)	1	(25.0)	333	(68.8)	35	(51.4)	34	(70.8)
Unknown	5	(27.7)	4	(57.1)	3	(75.0)	125	(25.8)	20	(29.4)	11	(22.9)
<b>Internet</b>												
Yes	2	(11.1)	.	(0.0)	.	(0.0)	75	(15.4)	.	(0.0)	.	(0.0)
No	11	(61.1)	3	(42.8)	1	(25.0)	289	(59.7)	45	(66.1)	37	(77.0)
Unknown	5	(27.7)	4	(57.1)	3	(75.0)	120	(24.7)	23	(33.8)	11	(22.9)
<b>Parks</b>												
Yes	.	(0.0)	.	(0.0)	.	(0.0)	25	(5.1)	.	(0.0)	.	(0.0)
No	13	(72.2)	3	(42.8)	1	(25.0)	331	(68.3)	45	(66.1)	37	(77.0)
Unknown	5	(27.7)	4	(57.1)	3	(75.0)	128	(26.4)	23	(33.8)	11	(22.9)
<b>Other Venue</b>												
Yes	2	(11.1)	2	(28.5)	.	(0.0)	82	(16.9)	11	(16.1)	3	(6.2)
No	10	(55.5)	1	(14.2)	1	(25.0)	257	(53.0)	30	(44.1)	34	(70.8)
Unknown	6	(33.3)	4	(57.1)	3	(75.0)	145	(29.9)	27	(39.7)	11	(22.9)
<b>Total</b>	18	(100.0)	7	(100.0)	4	(100.0)	484	(100.0)	68	(100.0)	48	(100.0)

<sup>1</sup> Had sex or met sex partners at defined venues during the period when syphilis infection likely occurred (critical period).<sup>2</sup> Venue risk information is available starting in 2001 and includes closed cases only. Does not include cases with no information on sexual partners.

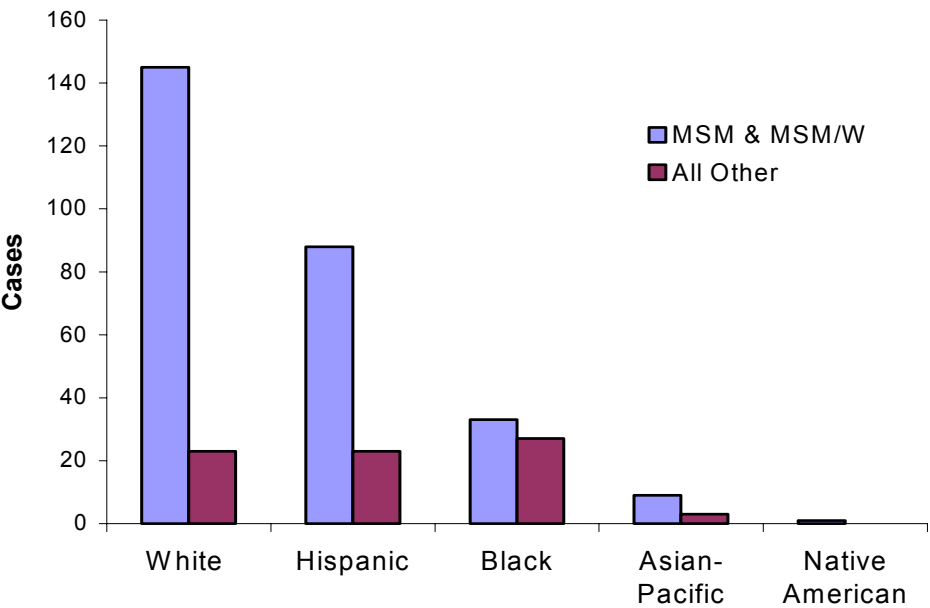
**Figure 1: Primary & Secondary Syphilis by Year & District of Residence through March 2003  
(n=599)**



**Figure 2: Primary & Secondary Syphilis by SPA, January 2001 Through March 2003 (n=400 )**

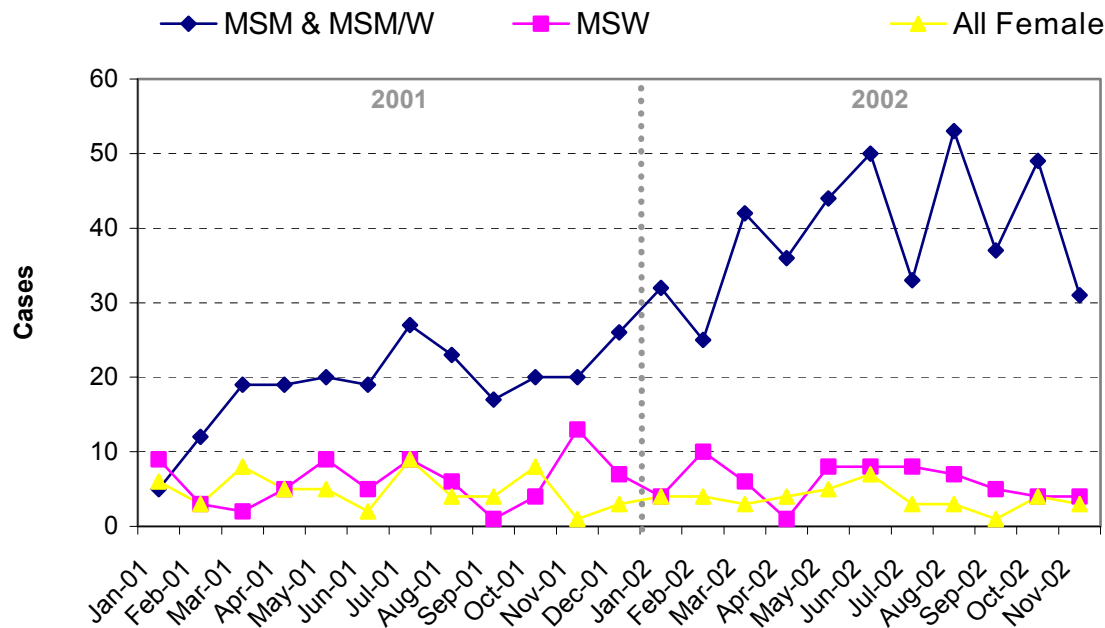


**Figure 3: Primary & Secondary Syphilis by Race/Ethnicity\* January 2002 Through March 2003 (n=352)**



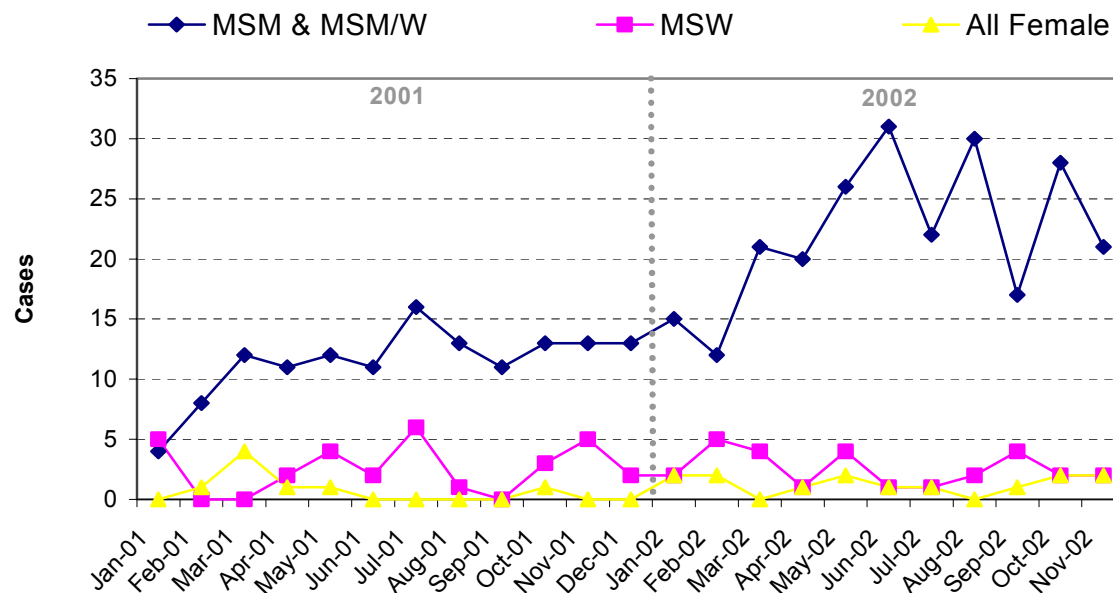
\*Does not include cases of unknown race/ethnicity (n=10)

Figure 4: Early Syphilis by Sexual Orientation\* & Month of Diagnosis, January 2001 Through November 2002 (n=1073)

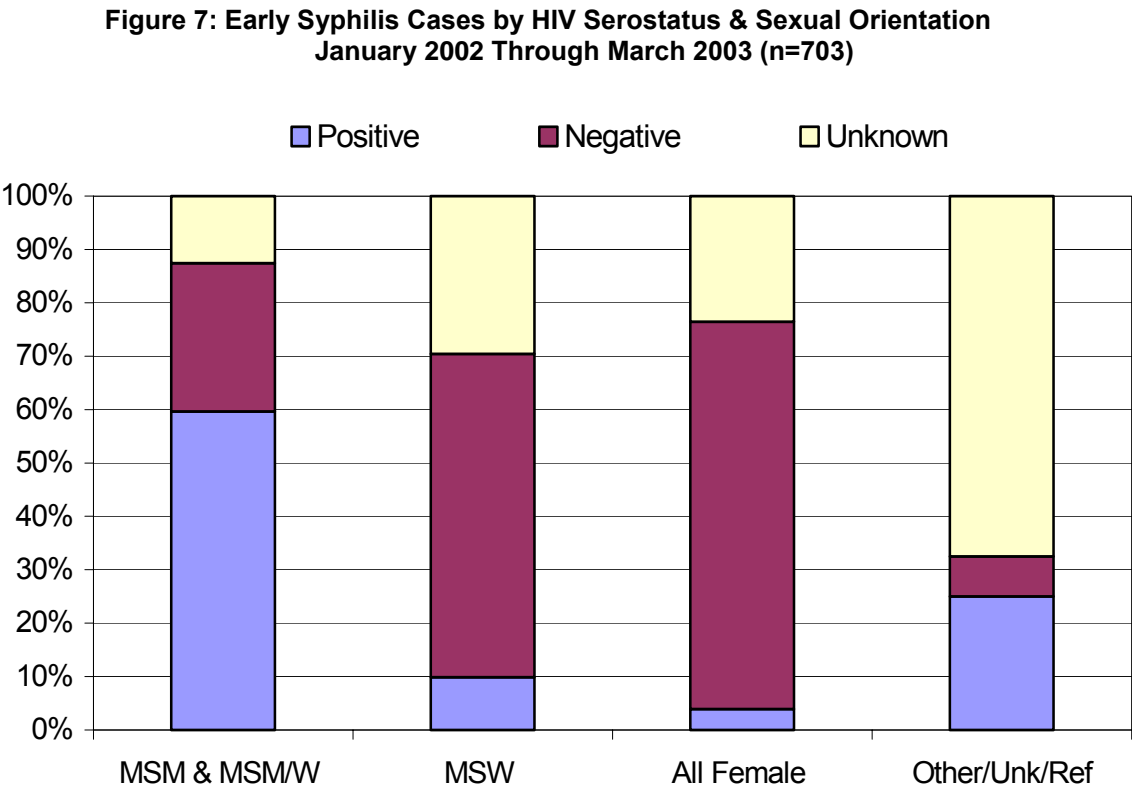
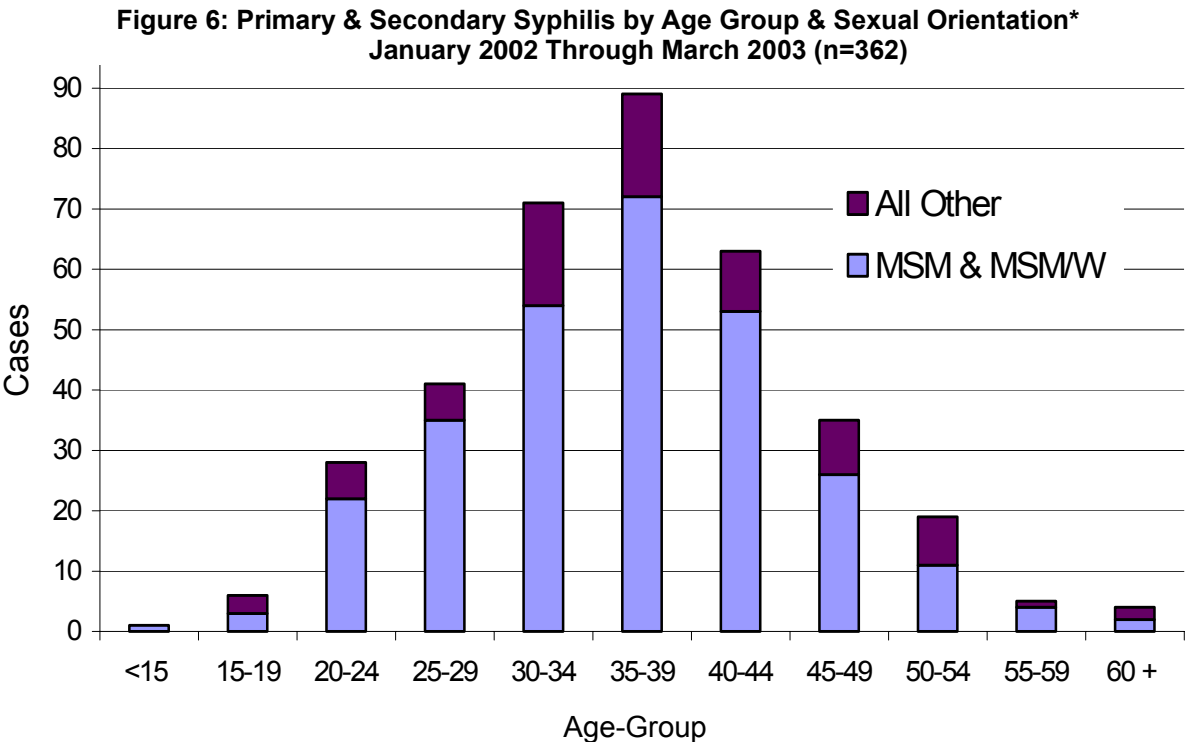


\*Does not include cases lacking partner information (n=137)

Figure 5: Primary & Secondary Syphilis by Sexual Orientation\* & Month of Diagnosis, January 2001 Through November 2002 (n=529)



\*Does not include cases lacking partner information (n=55)



## **APPENDIX A: SURVEILLANCE NOTES**

### **REPORT DELAY**

Report delay is defined as the time interval between the date a syphilis diagnosis was made and the date the case was reported to the Health Department. Currently, the mean reporting delay for early syphilis is 20 days and the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile is 72 days. The impact of report delay must be considered when evaluating figures 1, 4, and 5.

### **DATABASE UPDATES**

Totals may not be consistent with previous reports of previous years due to periodic updates of the database, including the changes in diagnosis, late reporting, and some deletion of duplicate cases.

### **JURISDICTION OF MORBIDITY**

Due to a change in procedures to determine case jurisdiction, the total morbidity per year in this issue is higher than in past issues.

### **CASEWATCH EXCEPTION REPORT**

The following three exceptions exist in the database used to generate the tables and graphs as of the end of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003 for the Early Syphilis Surveillance Summary:

1. Of 1547 Early Syphilis cases, 889 (59%) have unverified Los Angeles County jurisdiction:

- 88 cases marked "Unknown"
  - 8 from 2003, 76 from 2002, 3 from 2001, 1 from 2000
- 772 cases with jurisdiction not entered
  - 6 from 2003, 25 from 2002, 392 from 2001, 349 from 2000

2. Missing dates with diagnosis of early syphilis

- 3 Missing dates of diagnosis: 2 primary, 1 early latent
- 1 Missing date of report to STD Program: 1 primary

3. Duplicate records

- 8 possible duplicate cases
- 2 possible triplicate cases



## APPENDIX B: EARLY SYPHILIS CASE DEFINITION FOR INFECTIOUS CONDITIONS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH SURVEILLANCE

State and local public health officials rely on health-care providers, laboratories, and other public health personnel to report the occurrence of reportable diseases to state and local health departments. Without such data, trends cannot be accurately monitored, unusual occurrences of diseases might not be detected, and the effectiveness of intervention activities cannot be easily evaluated.

The usefulness of public health surveillance data depends on its uniformity, simplicity, and timeliness. This case definition was established for uniform criteria for disease reporting and should not be used as the sole criteria for establishing clinical diagnoses, determining the standard of care necessary for a particular patient, setting guidelines for quality assurance, or providing standards for reimbursement. Use of additional clinical, epidemiological, and laboratory data may enable a physician to diagnose a disease even though the formal surveillance case definition may not be met.

This case definition was developed in collaboration with epidemiologists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE). It was approved by a full vote of the CSTE membership and also endorsed for use by the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL).

### EARLY SYPHILIS CASE DEFINITION

Early syphilis includes primary, secondary and early latent cases reported within less than one year from the date of infection.

Syphilis is a complex sexually transmitted disease that has a highly variable clinical course. Classification by a clinician with expertise in syphilis may take precedence over the following case definitions developed for surveillance purposes.

#### PRIMARY SYPHILIS

**Clinical description:** A stage of infection with *Treponema pallidum* characterized by one or more chancres (ulcers); chancres might differ considerably in clinical appearance.

**Laboratory criteria for diagnosis:** Demonstration of *T. pallidum* in clinical specimens by darkfield microscopy, direct fluorescent antibody (DFA-TP), or equivalent methods.

**Case classification - Probable:** A clinically compatible case with one or more ulcers (chancres) consistent with primary syphilis and a reactive serologic test (nontreponemal: Venereal Disease Research Laboratory [VDRL] or rapid plasma reagin [RPR]; treponemal: fluorescent treponemal antibody absorbed [FTA-ABS] or microhemagglutination assay for antibody to *T. pallidum* [MHA-TP]).

**Case classification - Confirmed:** A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed.

#### SECONDARY SYPHILIS

**Clinical description:** A stage of infection caused by *T. pallidum* and characterized by localized or diffuse mucocutaneous lesions, often with generalized lymphadenopathy. The primary chancre may still be present.

**Laboratory criteria for diagnosis:** Demonstration of *T. pallidum* in clinical specimens by dark field microscopy, DFA-TP, or equivalent methods.

**Case classification - Probable:** A clinically compatible case with a nontreponemal (VDRL or RPR) titer.

**Case classification - Confirmed:** A clinically compatible case that is laboratory confirmed.

## EARLY LATENT SYPHILIS

**Clinical description:** A stage of infection caused by *T. pallidum* in which organisms persist in the body of the infected person without causing symptoms or signs. Latent syphilis is subdivided into early, late and unknown categories based on the duration of infection. When initial infection has occurred within the previous 12 months, latent syphilis is classified as early latent.

**Case classification - Probable:** Latent syphilis in a person who has evidence of having acquired the infection within the previous 12 months based on one or more of the following criteria:

- Documented seroconversion or fourfold or greater increase in titer of a nontreponemal test during the previous 12 months
- A history of symptoms consistent with primary or secondary syphilis during the previous 12 months
- A history of sexual exposure to a partner who had confirmed or probable primary or secondary syphilis or probable early latent syphilis (documented independently as duration <1 year)
- Reactive nontreponemal and treponemal tests from a person whose only possible exposure occurred within the preceding 12 months

## APPENDIX C: WHERE TO REPORT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

LABORATORY SLIP	CLINICIAN'S CMR	SEND REPORTS TO:
Syphilis Chlamydia Gonorrhea	Syphilis Chlamydia Gonorrhea Chancroid Non-gonococcal Urethritis Pelvic Inflammatory Disease	Sexually Transmitted Disease Program 2615 S. Grand Avenue, Rm. 450 Los Angeles, CA 90007 Telephone: 213-744-3070 Fax: 213-749-9602
AIDS HIV ( <i>As of July 1, 2002</i> )	AIDS HIV ( <i>As of July 1, 2002</i> )	HIV Epidemiology Program 600 S. Commonwealth Ave., Suite 805 Los Angeles, CA 90005 Telephone: 213-351-8516 Fax: 213-467-4683 <a href="http://lapublichealth.org/hiv/hivreporting.htm">http://lapublichealth.org/hiv/hivreporting.htm</a>
Tuberculosis	Tuberculosis	Tuberculosis Control 2615 S. Grand Avenue, Rm. 507 Los Angeles, CA 90007 Telephone: 213-744-6271 Fax: 213-749-0926
Cryptosporidiosis Diphtheria Encephalitis arboviral <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 Hepatitis A, acute Hepatitis B, acute Listeriosis Malaria Measles (Rubeola) Plague Rabies Typhoid <i>Vibrio</i> Species	List of reportable diseases: <a href="http://lapublichealth.org/acd/cdrs.htm">http://lapublichealth.org/acd/cdrs.htm</a>	Acute Communicable Diseases Morbidity Unit 313 N. Figueroa St., Rm. 117 Los Angeles, CA 90012 Telephone: 213-240-7821 Call toll free: 888-397-3993 Fax toll free: 888-397-3778
<b>REQUIRED INFORMATION ON THE CMR:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Patient Information: <b>Name, gender, ethnic group, date of birth, address, telephone number, social security number.</b></li> <li>✓ Diagnosis: <b>Diagnosis, date of diagnosis, date of onset.</b></li> <li>✓ Reporting Person: <b>Name, address, telephone number.</b></li> </ul>		

## **APPENDIX D: LOS ANGELES COUNTY STD SCREENING GUIDELINES FOR SEXUALLY ACTIVE HIV POSITIVE PERSONS**

Due to the continuing rise in syphilis as well as gonorrhea and chlamydia, we recommend routine screening of HIV infected persons based on the following schedule in order to decrease the transmission of these curable STDs as well as HIV.

### **INITIAL VISIT AND ANNUAL VISIT**

1. Testing should be performed for gonorrhea and chlamydia using urine testing for men and/or endocervical swab testing for women. Gonorrhea culture may also be used. Syphilis screening should be performed with an RPR.
  - a. Patients engaging in rectal intercourse should be cultured for GC and CT from the anal site. DFA may also be used for chlamydia.
  - b. Patients engaging in oral sex defined as activity in which they are orally exposed should be cultured for GC and CT from the pharyngeal area. DFA may also be used for chlamydia.
2. Women should be evaluated for the above trichomoniasis using culture or vaginal wet mount.

### **FOLLOW-UP VISITS**

#### **(ANNUAL VISIT AS ABOVE)**

HIV infected persons with symptoms of an STD should be screened upon presentation for care. Screening for syphilis, GC, and CT should be performed at 3 to 6 month intervals for persons at high risk for STDs but without STD symptoms. These persons include but are not limited to:

1. Persons with multiple or anonymous sex partners.
2. Past history of any STD.
3. Persons who have been recently incarcerated or those who have had sexual relations with someone recently incarcerated.
4. Persons reporting other behaviors associated with the transmission of HIV and other STDs. These include:
  - a. Participation in sexual activities in bathhouses, sex clubs or circuit parties,
  - b. Use of the internet to recruit sex partners,
  - c. Engaging in sexual activity for money or drugs,
  - d. Use of sexual enhancement drugs such as methamphetamines (i.e., meth, glass, crystal), ecstasy, ketamine, viagra, cocaine, crack, GHB, and nitrates/poppers.
5. Persons with sex or needle sharing partner(s) with any of the above risks.
6. Persons using injection drugs.
7. Persons living on the street/homeless.
8. Person living in areas with high STD prevalence. Sexually active gay men in the Los Angeles area are considered high-risk.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES  
**Public Health**

## **SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE PROGRAM**

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